(b) if so, the public expenditure on education during 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and estimates for 2007-08, and the respective ratio to GDP during these years; and

(c) the Government's reaction to fulfil the commitment and the steps proposed to be taken to raise public expenditure on education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The details of public expenditure on education during 2004-05 and 2005-06 and their respective ratio to GDP during these years are as given below :–

Year	Total Public Expenditure on Education (Rs. in crore)	Ratio to GDP
2004-05	104566.00	3.66%
2005-06	119029.88	3.66%

The corresponding figures for the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 are not available.

As a part of efforts to increase the public expenditure on education, the Government introduced 2% education cess on all central taxes to raise the funds for universal elementary education in 2004-05. Further an additional education cess @ 1% on all central taxes has been introduced in 2007-08 for funding the Secondary and Higher Education. The Eleventh Plan Approach Paper approved by National Development Council (NDC) states that Government should ensure to move towards raising public spending in education to 6% of GDP, which is a National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) commitment.

Skipping work by teachers

1576. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the World Bank survey found that 25 per cent of teachers skip work everyday, 50 per cent actually teach and virtually no one gets fired for habitual absenteeism, and most skilled teachers run expensive, private classes from their home on the side;

(b) if so, what Government have done to ensure regular teachings and classes in all the schools and colleges;

(c) whether it is a fact that only 15 per cent of Indian graduates are employable, as found by a recent survey of NASSCOM; and

(d) if so, what Government are doing to impart quality education in all Indian institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Government of India is aware of a study by the World Bank and Harvard University covering 3700 schools in 20 States, conducted in the year 2004 and its findings which reported that 25% of the teachers in Government primary schools are absent on a typical day and of

the teachers who were present, 59.5% were found to be teaching in class. The Government of India conducted an independent study in 2006-07 which has revealed an average national teacher attendance rate of 80%.

(b) Government of India has advised States to monitor teacher attendance in elementary schools and put in place mechanisms to improve teacher presence and accountability. Emphasis has been given on the role of Village Education Committees or local bodies in monitoring and supervision of schools including attendance of teachers.

(c) The NASSCOM-McKinsey Report, 2005 on 'Extending India's Leadership of the Global IT and BPO Industries' states that only about 25% of technical graduates and 10-15% of general college graduates are suitable for employment in the offshore IT and BPO industries respectively.

(d) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, several activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education and enhance learning achievement levels of students. This includes recruitment of about 7.9 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days each year, free distribution of textbooks for primary and upper primary classes to about 6.3 crore SC, ST and girl students, regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6700 Block Resource Centres (BRCs) and 66000 Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs), regular evaluation of students and monitoring of school performance.

Supreme Court bench at Nagpur

1577. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government, in fulfilment of its avowed objective to bring governance and speedy delivery of justice to the doorsteps of Aam Aadmi, would consider setting up a bench of the Supreme Court at Nagpur – a most-centrally located fastgrowing city in the country;

(b) if so, whether this would also result in liquidating huge arrears of cases in the Supreme Court and simultaneously ensuring quick disposal of newly filed cases; and

(c) by when such a step is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) According to Article 130 of the Constitution, ''the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.'' The matter of setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi has been taken up, with successive Chief Justices. The Chief Justice of India as well as the Full Court have been consistently opposed to the proposal for the setting up of the Benches of the Supreme Court in other regions of the country. The Chief Justice of India has last conveyed on 12.08.2007 that the matter was discussed in a Full Court meeting of